



*State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*

November 6, 2019

*20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-0301*

Mr. Eric Davis, Chairman
State Board of Education
6301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6301

Dear Chairman Davis:

As you are aware, Senate Bill 522 makes several changes to the school identification and selection process for the Innovative School District or ISD. I believe that turning over control of a public school to a charter school operator is both bad policy and ineffective, and I am fundamentally opposed to the ISD concept. Senate Bill 522, though, does make some positive improvements to the ISD, including providing a way for low-performing schools to improve before being subject to take over by the ISD. For that reason, I will allow Senate Bill 522 to become law without my signature.

North Carolina's students are constitutionally guaranteed the right to a sound basic education. If we are going to ensure that every child - especially children in our most disadvantaged schools and districts - gets the quality education they deserve, then we need to ensure that our lowest-performing schools have the support they need to raise student achievement. We cannot expect that they can turnaround by themselves. They need help from professionals at the state level to get the job done. Unfortunately, unnecessary budget cuts in 2017 and 2018 resulted in the elimination of nearly all the supports that the Department of Public Instruction provided to our low-performing schools and districts.

That is why I am requesting that you prioritize the staff and resources needed to support our state's lowest performing schools in your 2020-21 budget adjustment request. I look forward to receiving the Board's recommendations early next year.

Chairman Eric Davis
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Thank you again for your strong commitment to our public schools and your leadership on the Board. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Board to advance our shared vision of a public education system that provides each student with a high-quality education.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roy Cooper

cc: Superintendent Mark Johnson
Members of the State Board of Education